



Meeting Notes

Public Engagement Meeting #1

July 30, 2014 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

6 Horton Road, Blooming Grove, NY

Attendance:

Town of Blooming Grove Steering Committee:

Perry Ragusa
Richard Bachman
Walter Millett
Julius Sas

Carl Takiakjian
James Beaumont
Lorraine Tomassi

New York Rising Program

Lori DuBord

New York State Dept. of State:

Lisa Melville
William C. Harding

Tetra Tech, Inc.:

Emily Slotnick
Greg Brunelle
Becca Eith
Susan Roth

Town of Blooming Grove

Robert Fromaget, Town Supervisor
Johanna Kiernan, Town Board
Ron Jurain, Town Board

General Public

Sue Ann Vogelsberg
Meg Flood
Rick Horn
Pete Dowling
Jean Facciolla
George Doering

Linda Jurain
Helen Tudisco
James Wilson
Barbara Topps
Mary McCorvey

Gilbert Jost
Nancy Flanagan
Jeanne Dowling
Jeff Topps
Anne Beck

Agenda Item: Welcome/Introductions

Presenter: DuBord/Harding

Summary of Discussion:

1. Lori DuBord welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced herself, William Harding, Lisa Melville and community planner from Tetra Tech, Emily Slotnick.
2. The Town of Blooming Grove Steering committee was invited to introduce themselves.
3. The purpose of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) program is to help with the recovery of New York's communities in the wake of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, Superstorm Sandy. The program was developed by Governor Cuomo and was funded by Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding, which is a federal source of funding. The program's purpose is to help communities "build back better" by developing projects that create a more resilient community when facing the next storm. There were 102 communities that participated in the first round of the NYRCR program and 22 communities, including the Town of Blooming Grove, are participating in the second round of the NYRCR program. The Village of Washingtonville, located within the Town of Blooming Grove, completed its own NYRCR plan under the first round of the NYRCR program.

4. This program has two phases; planning and implementation. The Town of Blooming Grove is in the planning phase. The planning phase lays the foundation for creating and analyzing a number of different projects that address community resiliency. Projects can cover a number of different categories besides rebuilding infrastructure or addressing flood damages to property. For example, an economic development program may become a community priority if it increases the community's ability to come back from a disaster. At the end of the planning phase, the community would have a comprehensive list of projects developed by the committee with the help of the State and planning consultant team. All proposed projects in the final plan will be analyzed by the state and the planning consultants regarding the feasibility for funding through this program and other funding sources.
5. Once the planning phase ends and the implementation phase begins, the community is eligible for funding of up to 3 million dollars to fund projects that have been identified during this process.
6. As a first step, the attendees were encouraged to "think big" about projects and programs that were needed in the community, without concern of whether the project would be funded by this program.
7. The NYRCR program is unique because it is guided by a grass-roots committee of local residents and that it seeks public input throughout all phases of the planning process. All meetings, including the bi-monthly committee meetings, are open to the public, and the public is encouraged to attend. The committee meetings are generally set for the first and third Wednesday of the month, from 5-7, with the time changing to 4:30 to 6:30 starting in September. The next public engagement meeting will be set sometime the first week of September and will be advertised.

Decision/Motions/Votes:

Action Items:

Person Responsible:

Due Date:

Agenda Item: Plan Components and Status of Project.

Presenter:

Tetra Tech/Slotnick

Summary of Discussion:

1. Tetra Tech briefly explained the major plan components and stated that the first section of the plan included background information about the community and was due on the first of August. The committee has already begun work and has developed a vision statement and a list of critical issues. The geographic boundary for the project was also explained and presented as being the Town boundary, and an additional area outside the Town encompassing O&R Lake and its watershed. The process of defining Critical Assets is also underway. Critical Assets were explained as those places that help with storm recovery.
2. The second section of the plan includes a risk assessment. The Hydraulic HEC/RAS process that will be used to better understand the risks of flooding of the critical assets during major storm events will be presented in the second public engagement meeting.
3. This risk assessment lays the foundation for planning strategies and developing a project list, which will be presented as part of the final plan at the third public engagement meeting in November. The plan will be finalized and presented at a final public engagement meeting that will occur by mid-January.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.

Action Items: N.A.	Person Responsible:	Due Date:
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Agenda Item: Public Questions/Comments	Presenter:	Tetra Tech/Slotnick
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Summary of Discussion:

1. A member of the public wanted to know how projects were selected for implementation under this program. It was explained that the project list in the final NYRCR Plan will have three tiers of projects which collectively would cost far more than the anticipated funding award of \$3 million. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis will be used to help the committee decide on the “Proposed Projects,” which would be the tier of projects most likely eligible for the CDBG-DR funding. The state will review the final project lists with an even finer tooth comb before entering into a conversation with the potential sub-recipient.
2. Another public member noted that the flooding in the Town of Blooming Grove is affected by activities up stream. A committee member stated that consideration of the upstream and downstream impacts have occurred in discussions at committee meetings.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N/A

Action Items: N.A.	Person Responsible	Due Date
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Agenda Item: Public Engagement	Presenter:	Tetra Tech
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Summary of Discussion:

1. Tetra Tech provided an opportunity for attendees to cast votes for the projects types that participants felt needed the most attention in their community with the use of play money in ballot boxes marked with these general categories: Infrastructure, housing, economic development, health and social services, natural and cultural resources, and community capacity building.
2. In addition, attendees were invited to place markers on a map of the Town of Blooming Grove, and provide information about storm conditions from their personal perspective. A survey was distributed that allowed for people to tell about their experience, and suggest projects to the committee.

Decisions/Motions/Votes: N/A

Action Items: N.A.	Person Responsible	Due Date
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End of Meeting Notes